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Date: July 20th 2001

1623
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Done

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Heindel et al

EXAMINER: Maier, L

APPLICATION NO.: 09/493,891

GROUP: 1623

FILED: January 28th 2000

TITLE: Lactones of Carboxylic and Polysaccharides and Methods For Forming Conjugates Thereof

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Requirement to restrict their invention to one of three groups of invention as required under 35 USC 121, **Applicants elect Group II**, i.e., Claims 3-9 drawn to method of preparing a lactone of polysaccharides carboxylic acids as classified in Class 536, Subclass 124.

This election is made with traverse.

Applicants believe that the claims of Groups II and III are in fact a single group. The claimed inventions are classifiable by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the same class and subclass as noted by the Examiner, and that since both claimed groups are classified together, a search for both sets of claims would not be burdensome upon the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration of the Examiner's position as it exists for the separation of Claims 3-9 from Claims 10-14.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on August 2nd 2001

George M. YAHWAK
(Date of Deposit)
Applicant, assignee, or registered rep.
8-2-01
Signature Date